

# Xamtanga language

**Xamtanga** (also Agawinya, Khamtanga, Simt'anga, Xamir, Xamta) is a Central Cushitic language spoken in Ethiopia by the Xamir people.

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Xamtanga	
Xamir	
<b>Pronunciation</b>	'xamtanga
<b>Native to</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Region</b>	North Amhara Region
<b>Native speakers</b>	210,000 (2007 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Afro-Asiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cushitic</li> <li>▪ Agaw</li> <li>▪ Northern</li> <li>▪ Xamtanga</li> </ul>
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	xan
<b>Glottolog</b>	xamt1239 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/xamt1239">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/xamt1239</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Sound system

### Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
<b>High</b>	i	ɨ	u
<b>Mid vowel</b>	ə		
<b>Low vowel</b>	a		

The central vowels /ɨ ə/ have fronted and backed allophones, depending on the adjacent consonant(s).

### Consonants

		Labial	Coronal	Postalveolar or palatal	Velar		Uvular		Glottal
Plosives and affricates	Voiceless		t	tʃ	k	kʷ	q	qʷ	
	Voiced	b	d	ðʒ	g	gʷ			
	Ejective		t'	tʃ'	k'	kʷ'			
Fricatives	Voiceless	f	s	ʃ			x	xʷ	h*
	Voiced		z						
	Ejective		s'						
Nasals	m	n			ŋ	ŋʷ			
Lateral		l							
Tap		r							
Semivowels			j		w				

- /h/ is found only word-initial in loanwords, and may be glottal [h] or pharyngeal [ħ].
- /t/ is alveolar before the vowel /i/, dental otherwise.
- /q/ can be ejective [q'], and in some cases the ejectives appear to be in free variation with the voiceless plosives.

## Phonological processes

### Gemination

In positions other than word-initial, Xamtanga contrasts geminate and non-geminate consonants. With most consonants, the difference between a geminate and a non-geminate is simply one of length, but the cases of /b t q/ are more complex. When not word-initial, non-geminate /b/ is realized as a bilabial [β] or labiodental fricative [v], and /t/ and /q/ are realized as affricates: [tθ qχ]. Their geminate equivalents may be realized as prolonged [b: t: q: ], or can simply be short [b t q].

In word-initial position, geminate consonants do not occur, and /b t q/ are realized as plosives.

### Notes

1. Ethiopia 2007 Census ([http://www.csa.gov.et/newcsaweb/images/documents/surveys/Population%20and%20Housing%20census/ETH-pop-2007/survey0/data/Doc/Reports/National\\_Statistical.pdf](http://www.csa.gov.et/newcsaweb/images/documents/surveys/Population%20and%20Housing%20census/ETH-pop-2007/survey0/data/Doc/Reports/National_Statistical.pdf))
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Xamtanga" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/xamt1239>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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